

IN THE CLAIMS

1-128 (canceled)

129. (previously presented) A medical implant comprising at least one structural element comprising a physiologically compatible material surrounded by an outer covering.

130. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein said at least one structural element is a spaghetti-like strand.

131. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein said at least one structural element comprises silicon rubber.

132. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 130, wherein said spaghetti-like strand comprises silicon rubber.

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133. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 130, wherein said physiologically compatible material is plastic.

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134. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein said physiologically compatible material is plastic.

135. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein said structural element has a wettable surface.

136. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein said outer covering is made of a physiologically compatible material.

137. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 136, wherein said outer covering is made of plastic or silicone rubber.

138. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 130, wherein said outer covering is made of a physiologically compatible material.

139. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 131 wherein said outer covering is made of a physiologically compatible material.

140. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 139, wherein said outer covering is made of plastic or silicone rubber.

141. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 132, wherein said outer covering is made of a physiologically compatible material.

142. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein a surface of said outer covering is hydrophilized.

143. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 129, wherein a surface of said structural element has a hydrophilized surface.

144. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 142, wherein said structural element is a spaghetti-like strand.

145. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 144, wherein said spaghetti-like strand comprises silicone rubber.

146. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 144, wherein the outer surface of said spaghetti-like strand is hydrophilized.

147. (previously presented) A medical implant comprising an outer covering containing therein at least one spaghetti-like strand made of a physiologically compatible material having a surface that is wettable by a fluid lubricant.

148. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 147, wherein said implant has a hydrophilized surface.

149. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 147, wherein said physiologically compatible material comprises silicon rubber.

150. (previously presented) The implant of claim 149, wherein the surface is hydrophilized surface and the lubricant is aqueous.

151. (previously presented) The implant of claim 148, wherein the fluid lubricant is aqueous.

152. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein the fluid lubricant is swellable.

153. (previously presented) The implant of claim 149, wherein the fluid lubricant is swellable.

154. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein the fluid lubricant is selected from the group consisting of a polysaccharide and a glucosaminoglycan.

155. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein a surface of the implant is hydrophobic.

156. (currently amended) The implant of claim 155 147, wherein said implant contains fat or oil wetting the hydrophobic surface as the fluid lubricant.

157. (currently amended) The implant of claim 155 149, wherein said implant contains fat or oil wetting the hydrophobic surface as the fluid lubricant.

158. (currently amended) The implant of claim 147 149, wherein said physiologically compatible material is a plastic.

159. (currently amended) The implant of claim 148 149, wherein said physiologically compatible material is a plastic.

160. (previously presented) The implant of claim 155, wherein material said physiologically compatible material is a silicone rubber.

161. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein said physiologically compatible material is polydimethylsiloxane.

162. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein said physiologically compatible material is a polysaccharide.

163. (previously presented) The implant of claim 158, wherein the plastic is cuprophane.

164. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein the physiologically compatible material has a foam structure.

165. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein an X-ray contrast medium or a dye is incorporated into the physiologically compatible material.

166. (previously presented) The implant of claim 149, wherein an X-ray contrast medium or a dye is incorporated into the physiologically compatible material.

167. (previously presented) The implant of claim 130, comprising a plurality of spaghetti-like strands.

168. (previously presented) The implant of claim 132 comprising a plurality of spaghetti-like strands.

169. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147 comprising a plurality of spaghetti-like strands.

170. (previously presented) The implant of claim 149 comprising a plurality of spaghetti-like strands.

171. (previously presented) The implant of claim 130, wherein said spaghetti-like strand is solid.

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172. (previously presented) The implant of claim 132, wherein said spaghetti-like strand is solid.

173. (previously presented) The implant of claim 147, wherein said spaghetti-like strand is solid.

174. (previously presented) The implant of claim 149, wherein said spaghetti-like strand is solid.

175. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant into a subject comprising implanting an implant consisting of a spaghetti-like strand of silicon rubber in the desired site of a subject.

176. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant comprising implanting the implant of claim 129 at a desired site of a subject.

177. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant comprising implanting the implant of claim 130 at a desired site of a subject.

178. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant comprising implanting the implant of claim 131 at a desired site of a subject.

179. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant comprising implanting the implant of claim 147 at a desired site of a subject.

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Concl 180. (previously presented) A method of implanting a medical implant comprising implanting the implant of claim 149 at a desired site of a subject.

181. (previously presented) The medical implant of claim 132, wherein said structural element has a wettable surface.